Buildings of the Deer Hunt to 1642
Part 2

by

John McCann, Pat Ryan and Beth Davis

This paper follows on from Part 1, published in Volume 58 (2014) of these Transactions (pages 28-59), and comprises evidence of towers in deer parks (whether described as hunting towers, watch-towers or prospect towers), deerhouses, kennels, hides, and some miscellaneous buildings which may be linked to the deer hunt. We hope that this paper will suggest other examples of buildings associated with deer hunting, and that it will account for some buildings which otherwise are difficult to interpret.
The sequence of Section numbers and Figure numbers continues from Part 1.

5. HUNTING TOWERS, WATCH-TOWERS, PROSPECT TOWERS

Richard Blome in *The Gentleman's Recreation* of 1686 included an engraving of a two-storey tower in a park at the point where avenues converge, with a deer hunt going on in the foreground. There is plenty of documentary evidence of former towers in deer parks, whether described as watch-towers or hunting towers, but few of them survive to this day. When the parks ceased to be used for hunting most of the towers had no other function and were allowed to fall derelict, or were dismantled to re-use their materials. At Bruton, Somerset (ST643450), a roofless four-gabled tower stands on the crest of a hillock 320m south of the parish church. It is built of stone rubble with dressings of Doulting stone, 20 ft 6in (6.26m) square, and of three storeys, with a doorway facing north-east (Fig. 28). In the upper

Fig. 28
The tower at Bruton, Somerset, from the south-south-east. Note that two windows in the south-east elevation have been blocked for later use as a dovecote.
Photograph, J. McCann, 1992.

John McCann was an architectural photographer for twenty-five years, dealing with modern buildings, but in middle life he became more interested in vernacular architecture. He took an honours degree in history at King's College, London, and then worked as an Inspector of Historic Buildings for Essex County Council and English Heritage. He is now retired, living in Devon.

Pat Ryan was employed for many years by the Planning Department of Essex County Council. She is the author of *Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation* (1996), and has contributed articles to the publications of the Vernacular Architecture Group, the Essex Society for Archaeology and History and other academic journals.

Beth Davis pioneered the study of vernacular architecture in Huntingdonshire. For many years she worked as an Inspector of Historic Buildings for South Cambridgeshire District Council. In retirement she has assisted in the revision of the 'Pevsner' for Huntingdonshire, and is now editing a volume on the Hearth Tax.
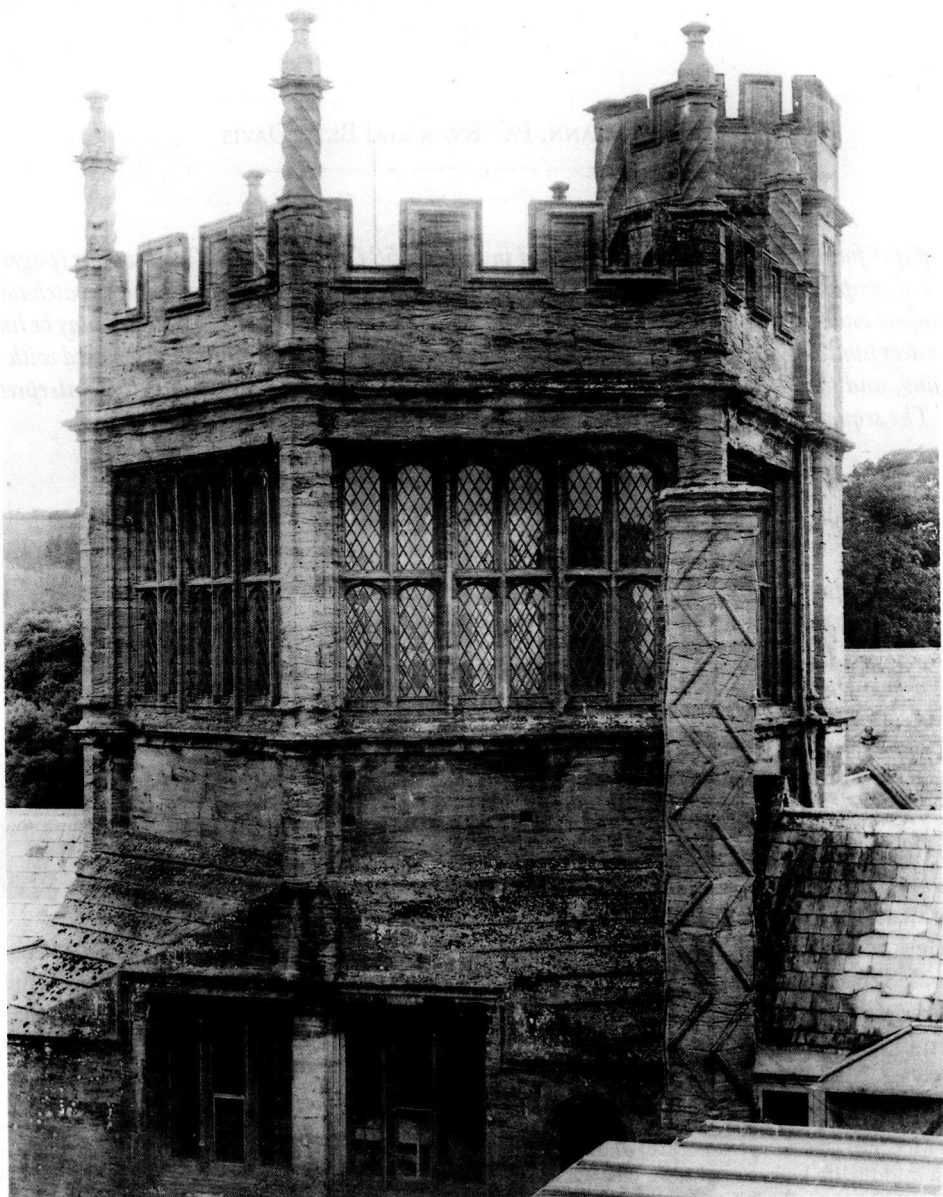
Fig. 29
Melbury House, Melbury Sampford, Dorset, the exposed upper stages of the tower, from
the east-north-east.
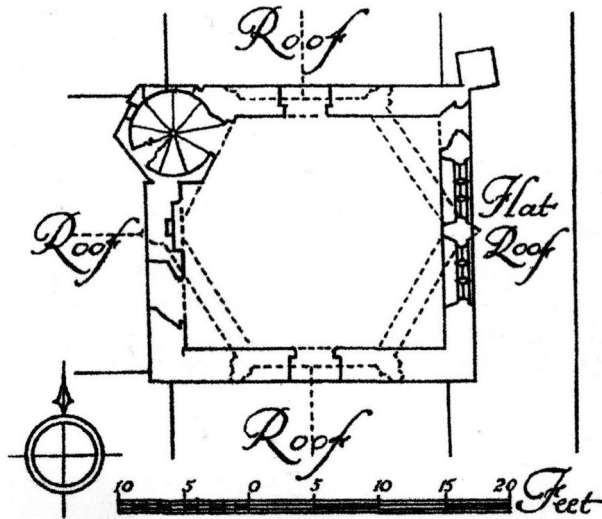*Courtesy of English Heritage,© English Heritage, 1860-70.*

Fig. 30
Melbury House, Melbury Sampford, plan of the tower.
Courtesy of English Heritage,© English Heritage.

storeys of the tower there were formerly windows on all four sides, although some have been blocked. The first-floor windows were all of two lights with sunk chamfers, as are the north-east windows in the ground and top storeys. The other three windows in the top storey were of one light. Internal timbers have been dendro-dated to 1554-86.[1] In 1913 some internal plaster still survived, and there was evidence that the windows had been glazed with panels of leaded glass.[2] The *Victoria County History* states that 'By 1545-6 a park of some 30 acres [12ha] had been created, presumably by the canons [of Bruton Abbey], on their demesne lands immediately south of the abbey'. At the Dissolution the land was acquired by the Berkeleys; by the early 18th century they had extended the park to 60 acres (24ha). The tower is shown in an undated estate map; from it allées radiate to east, south-east and south.[3] From the windows there would have been a clear view of any hunting activity in the park, and of the wider estate. It seems reasonable to deduce that the tower was designed to present its most striking elevation to the north-east, and that the middle storey was intended for spectators of high status. The small windows in the top storey may have been used by a 'spotter' employed to guide the hunt. Since the park was disparked in 1773 the ground storey has been used for housing cattle, and the upper storeys have been converted to form a dovecote, but these were merely secondary uses of a redundant building.[4] It is a Grade II* listed building, belongs to the National Trust, and it is always accessible.

At Melbury House in Melbury Sampford, Dorset (ST576060), there is a hexagonal stone tower of four storeys which originally stood clear of the house, but which is now enclosed by later two-storey extensions (Figs 29, 30). It was built by Sir Giles Strangways, and was completed shortly before John Leland's visit of *c.* 1540. It is listed Grade I with Melbury House.[5] The tithe apportionment of 1838 records field names 'Upper Park' and 'Lower Park', each divided into two parts, in addition to 'Park', which apparently survived in use. John Hutchins quoted from a document of 1546 showing that Strangways bought a strip of land '2 feet [0.61m] in depth and 233 perches [1,171m] in length to set his park pales in'.[6] This narrow corridor of land would have been just sufficient to build a pale. We deduce that here the park was not surrounded by a bank and ditch as in medieval parks, just a tall pale, erected outside an existing hedge so as to enclose it for the deer to browse. The great ditches and banks which enclosed medieval parks would have been formed with serf labour, but by 1546 this was no longer available. The same would apply to other parks first established in the Tudor period, such as those enclosed by Henry VIII at Nazeing, Fayremead, New Hall and elsewhere, mentioned in Part 1.

A sandstone tower at Chatsworth, Derbyshire, is described in the listed building report as – 'The Hunting Tower. Look-out or hunting tower' (SK265706). It was built *c.* 1581 for Bess of Hardwick, and was described in an inventory of 1601 as 'The Stand' (Fig. 31). Sited on a hilltop which then was treeless, it provides a panoramic view of the park and the surrounding land. It is square, of three storeys and a half-basement, with a domed round turret at each corner which rises to four storeys. The doorway faces south; above it there are cross windows in each storey, and more windows in the turrets. In the north and east elevations there are three tiers of similar cross windows, some plain-chamfered. In the west elevation there are two single-light transomed windows with recessed and chamfered surrounds. There is a hearth at each storey. The plasterwork in the turrets was described by Mark Girouard as 'of great liveliness and charm'.[7] These internal finishes and the contemporary name suggest that the tower was primarily designed as a standing or hunting tower, but it is also possible that banquets were served there. It is a Grade II* listed building.

Fig. 31
Chatsworth, Derbys., the Hunting Tower.
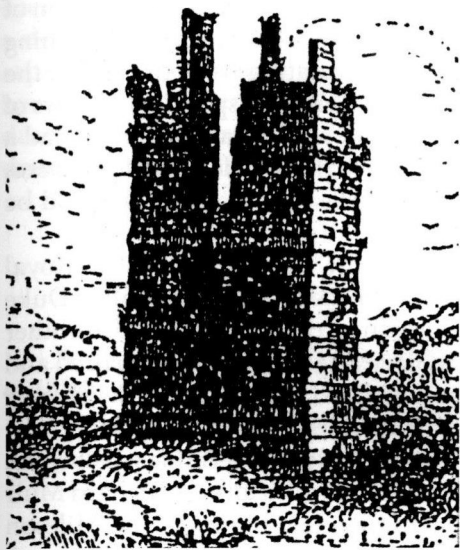*Courtesy of Country Life, © Country Life.*

Fig. 32
Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex, the
former hunting tower.
*William Stukeley, Itinerarium Curiosum (London
1724), 136.*

Fig. 33
Terling, Essex, a brick tower as depicted in the
estate map of 1597 by John Walker senior. (In all the
Walker maps brickwork and clay tiles are coloured
red, shown here as black).
Essex Record Office, D/DM P2.

In Cheshire, at Lyme Park in Lyme Handley, to the east of the approach road is a square tower of three storeys built of sandstone (SJ966830). In the listed building report it is described as – 'The Cage. Formerly hunting tower cum gatehouse, later park keeper's house and prisoners' lock-up'. It is within the park, isolated on the crest of a low hill. The first tower on the site was built *c.* 1580, but it was taken down and rebuilt in 1737. It is not known how much, if any, of the original structure was retained.[8] It is a Grade II* listed building.

There is good evidence of two towers in Essex parks, but they were demolished long ago. At a high point in the park of Audley End, near Saffron Walden, there was a five-storey brick tower with stone quoins. It was already derelict by 1719 and was illustrated by William Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* of 1724 (Fig. 32). It is shown in Philip Morant's map of 1768 of Clavering and Uttlesford Hundreds. Also in 1768 it was described as 'a hunting-tower'. By *c.* 1770 it had been demolished to build a 'Grecian temple' on the site. (TL515383).[9] The other Essex example is a brick tower of four storeys with a pitched roof of clay tiles, depicted in a finely-detailed estate map of Terling of 1597 by the celebrated map-maker, John Walker senior, in an area identified as 'Terlinge Park' (Fig. 33).[10]

At Leconsfield in east Yorkshire John Leland recorded 'a fair tower for a lodge in the park',[11] which seems to have been the stone equivalent of the timber-framed tower which Oliver Rackham deduced at Forest Lodge, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex (Part 1, 48-9).

Richard Muir reported documentary evidence of medieval towers in some Yorkshire

parks which he attributed primarily to providing prospects of the parks for aesthetic enjoyment, but he conceded that they could be interpreted as serving a combination of aesthetic and functional purposes. Harewood Castle near Leeds had two towers reaching over 100 feet [30.50m] and two shorter towers. Probably dating from the 1360s, the towers, the roof walkway and the upper floor chambers all enjoyed spectacular views of the park. The lodge [in John of Gaunt's park] at Haverah, near Knaresborough, had a tower. Further north in Swaledale the deer park at Healaugh had a lead-roofed *touresse*, serving as a vantage point from which the coursing of the deer in the park could be observed'.[12]

On the crest of the hill in Greenwich Park (on the site of the present Royal Observatory, Flamsteed House, TQ388773) there was formerly a building called Duke Humphrey's Tower. It had been built in 1433 by Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, brother of King Henry V. In 1526 King Henry VIII had the decaying tower 'newly repaired and builded', added a gatehouse, and enclosed the whole within a wooden fence, developing it as a hunting lodge which he named 'Mireflore'. It was demolished in 1675.[13]

In the absence of contemporary comment it is impossible to determine whether the towers were built primarily to provide prospects for aesthetic pleasure, as Richard Muir suggests, or for the more practical purpose of facilitating deer hunting. S.A. Mileson devotes a whole chapter to the question of how far aesthetic considerations influenced the design of parks, but beyond the occasional description 'fair' and the element 'beau' as part of a name, he finds little convincing evidence.[14]

6. DEERHOUSES

In 1616 Richard Surflet wrote that within a herd there should be some tame deer to lead the others to the places where they were fed, and where they could find shelter in harsh weather.[15] The buildings provided for these purposes were called Deerhouses. Repairs to the deerhouse at Abchilds Park, Essex, are mentioned in the Pleshey Castle accounts of 1439-40, and again in 1463-4.[16] An item in the accounts of Hunsdon House, Essex, of *c.* 1530 described the building as 'the great house for the feeding and dry laying of the deer'.[17] In 1535 at The More, a royal park at Rickmansworth (Herts.), two deerhouses were built. They were timber-framed structures each mounted on sixteen 'gret quoynes of bryck'. One end of each building was partitioned off to provide accommodation for a keeper.[18]

During 1440-1 a new deerhouse was built in Pleshey Park, Essex, which can be reconstructed from the building accounts of the duchy of Lancaster. It was timber-framed and had a thatched roof. It lay in an east-west direction and had one open side. To build it required 22 loads of timber and 47 carpenter-days at 5d a day. An impression of its size can be gained from comparison with a hall-and-crosswing house built nearby at Walthambury at the same period, which required 56 loads of timber and 146 carpenter-days. A sawpit for preparing the timber was dug close to the site. 'John Colet [was paid] for carting with his cart a machine called a "ferne" from Leghes [now Leighs] to the park, 4 miles [6.4km] for lifting and erecting the great timbers of the said building 8d'.[19]

In 1324/5 the roof of 'Le Derhows' at King's Langley (Herts.) was repaired using 'fern' gathered by the roofer's assistant. In 1363/4 a new 'rakk' forty feet (12.19m) long

was made for the wild animals (feris best) in the park, and at Hertingfordbury a man spent ten days making 'rakes' for the deer in the park.[20] In 1603 at Walkern (Herts.) a deerhouse was built (or rebuilt) at a total cost of £7.10s. In 1627 the windows were repaired, the roof was re-thatched, and a pen was chalked, graveled and provided with new rails at a total cost of £4.11s.9d.[21] It may be useful to quote later explanations of how deerhouses were used. In 1748 the Swedish economic botanist, Pehr Kalm, described deerhouses in a park in Hertfordshire.

> In one place and another in the park there was a shed erected, which commonly consisted of a roof on posts under the middle of which there ran a long rack made of two hurdles which were tied together by their lower sides, so that the hay could be laid between them. Here the deer had their refuge in bad weather, and got their fodder from the hay which was spread for them in the racks.[22]

A 'deer shed' in Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, was described in a builder's estimate of 1824:

> This Shed is to be used in the Summer Season for Placing the 12 large Hay Racks under, which in Winter are to be Placed in different Parts of the Park for the Deer to feed from, and then the Shed being vacant and having a Hay Rack can be used for the Same Purpose. The Front to be Open with Stout b[oar]d and braced Posts to Support the Roof which is to be framed and cove[re]d with Pantiles, the Back and Ends to be of stout q[uar]t[er]ed [*i.e* quarter-sawn] Boards set on Brick Foundations.[23]

That is, it was to contain one permanent hay rack, and it provided sufficient covered space to store twelve portable racks.

Surflet, writing in 1616, noted that the deer should be fed with 'harvest fruits ... barley, pure wheat, beans ... and whatsoever else is good cheape'. Elsewhere he stated that grass and hay were by far the most common foods for deer.[24] Mileson reports that:

> From September 1378 to September 1380, 180 carts of hay were used for the deer [at the royal parks at Woodstock and Cornbury], at a total cost of £31; carriage, stacking in the barns cost £35 8s 2d. In 1378-9 a cart was used to ferry hay from the barns to the deer for 101 days (at a cost of 6d a day). During these two years men were paid also to cut brushwood to provide additional sustenance, for 92 days and 101 days respectively (at a total cost of over £4). The outlay of deer food at these two big parks would have supported a fairly substantial gentry family. ... The hay was placed in specially constructed cradles for the deer to feed from.[25]

The reference to 'brushwood' is made clear by Evelyn Shirley writing in 1867 about the various kinds of fodder which were fed to deer in her time. Hay was the commonest, supplemented by horse and Spanish chestnuts, beans, and acorns and beech mast gathered outside the park. Branches of deciduous trees were cut in summer and were dried with the leaves on and stacked like hay.[26] John Fletcher, a veterinary practitioner specializing in deer, states that ivy, *Hedera helix,* is one of the foods most attractive to deer.[27] The passage from Mileson makes clear that two kinds of barns were involved, large barns to store the annual crop of hay on the royal estates, and smaller barns in the parks near the deerhouses.[28]

Deerhouses have left traces in field names. The name 'Deerhouse field' occurs in an estate map of Great Park, Castle Hedingham, Essex, dated 1592.[29] The earl of Oxford was licensed to enclose a park there in 1263.[30] The same name occurs in an estate map

Fig. 34
A hay rack in the deer park at Broadgate, Leics.
Engraving, Leonard Knyff, 1721.

Fig. 35
A 15th-century illustration of a kennel. Men are shown grooming the hounds and carrying food for
them, women are laying fresh straw on their beds. Gaston Phoebus, Livre de chasse.
Courtesy of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, MS Fr. 616, fol. 37, © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

of Pond Park, Felsted, Essex, dated 1775; the park was formed in 1537 by Sir Richard Rich from the demesne land of Leighs Priory.[31] 'Deerhouse Piece' occurs in an estate map of Danbury, Essex, dated 1758.[32] In 1282 the park was licenced to William St. Clare; most of it survives in public use.[33] Another former deerhouse has been reported at Wrestle, East Yorkshire. Repairs to it were mentioned in estate accounts of 1542-5, and the field name 'Deerhouse Lands' was recorded in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854.[34] A hay rack for deer at the earl of Stamford's park at Broadgate, (Leics.), was illustrated by Leonard Knyff in 1721 (Fig. 34).[35]

7. KENNELS FOR PACKS OF HUNTING HOUNDS

Various kinds of hounds were used for hunting deer. Greyhounds (also called 'gaze hounds') and 'alaunts', together known as 'running hounds', were kept for their speed when the quarry was within sight. Hounds kept for their acute scenting abilities were called 'lymers'. The larger animals like mastiffs were called 'brachets'. John Cummins has drawn information from continental texts to describe a typical kennel for a large pack of hounds, based on one at Fontainebleau.[36] The structure was 60 by 30 feet (18.29 by 9.14m). The hounds slept on beds of oak or hazel hurdles raised one foot (0.30m) above ground, covered by a deep layer of straw. There was an upper storey to protect the hounds from extreme cold and heat, in which the *pages de chiens* lived. Outside it was a paled run of about the same size. Free-standing posts covered with straw were provided for the hounds to urinate against, with channels to drain away the urine.[37] A 15th-century illustration of a hunt kennel in Gaston Phoebus's *Livre de Chasse* shows all types of hounds kennelled together (Fig. 35). Men are shown grooming the hounds and carrying food for them, while women lay fresh straw on their beds.

Simon Thurley cites information about the royal kennels at Greenwich, which 'were so extensive that the dogs were accommodated a mile away at Deptford. In 1539 a 230-foot [70m] pale was built around the kennel, *i.e.* longer by 28% than the pale at Fontainebleau. Closer to the house four new kennels were made in 1532 behind the banqueting house in the tiltyard. In 1534-5 a new park was made at Eltham and the lodge built in it had kennels provided'.[38] Tom Beaumont James and Christopher Gerrard have described a kennel in the royal park of Clarendon which in *c.* 1690 was 'about fiftie foote in length and fifteene foot in breadth' (15 x 4.6m); the yard was enclosed by a brick wall. It was situated in the most northerly part of the park, as far as possible from the palace so that the occupiers would not be disturbed by the noise of the dogs barking; The building has not survived but it is perpetuated in the name Kennel Farm.[39] No surviving hunt kennels of the period have been identified in Britain, but it does not follow that none exist. Redundant buildings often survive in altered form, adapted to later uses. The possibility remains that a Tudor kennel will be identified in future, although now appearing to be something else. It is hoped that this paper may stimulate readers to re-examine likely buildings which have not been fully understood.

Fig. 36
An enlarged drawing of the hide illustrated in
the estate map of 1613 of Little Park, Melford
Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk, by Samuel Piers.
Redrawn by Beth Davis, 2014.

Fig. 37
Engraving showing a huntsman exhibiting the fumées or droppings of a selected hart to Queen
Elizabeth I on an unroofed single-storey standing.
G. Turberville, The Noble Arte of Venerie or Hunting (London, 1576).

8. HIDES

The estate map of Little Park, Melford Hall, already mentioned in Part 1 in connection
with hunt standings, also depicts two strange buildings.[40] Each is a small domed structure
coloured green and mounted high above ground on a single stem, with a window and a
door, reached by an inclined ladder (Fig. 36). They appear to be erected on the pollarded
trunks of living trees; the ragged outlines suggest that growing shoots were trained to
conceal them. One is in a small clearing in woodland, the other is in a laund not far
from a wood. They are similar to the permanent hides used by modern naturalists; the
contemporary name, if it was different, has not been identified.

A 15th-century illustration in Gaston Phoebus's *Livre de Chasse* suggests how they were
used. It depicts a man standing in the crown of a pollard looking down on a group of
deer.[41] Apparently these hides were used by employed huntsmen to allow them to observe
the deer at rest, and to pick out the best animals for the hunt. Cummins describes the
duties of a huntsman; he had to become familiar with the *fues* or footprints and the *fumées*
or droppings of the best animals, and to learn where they lay at night. 'The aim was to
gather evidence as to both the location and suitability for hunting of several harts so that
a decision could be made on where to begin the hunt'.[42] This evidence was presented
to the monarch or master of the hunt at the beginning of the assembly (Fig. 37). Only
stags with twelve points on each antler were considered to be worthy of a nobleman's
attention. It was accepted that a white hart was of special symbolic quality, reserved for
the monarch to kill.[43]

9. MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS

Since Part 1 was published, James Bond has brought to our attention a curious building known as the Keeper's Cottage in Hardington Park, Somerset (ST738529), which was described and illustrated by Michael McGarvie and John Harvey in Vol. 24 (1980) of these *Transactions* (Figs 38, 39, 40).[44] Built of rubble with quoins and dressings of Doulting stone, it is rectangular, comprising two storeys and an occupied attic, with walls 2 feet 6 in. (0.76m) thick on three sides and only 2 feet (0.61m) thick on the south side. There is no evidence of original heating, although now it has a Victorian chimney. The lintel over the east doorway bears the channel-cut date 'AD1581/FE14' (meaning 14 February 1581/2), which is in stylistic agreement with the rest of the building.

McGarvie concluded that it was built by Thomas Bampfylde II, who is known to have been active in improving other features

Fig. 38
The Keeper's Cottage, Hardington, Somerset, from the north-east.
Photograph, M. McGarvie, 1979.

Fig. 39
The Keeper's Cottage, Hardington. Detail of machicolation or barbizan.
Photograph, M. McGarvie, 1979.

of his demesne. It 'surveys the whole park and commands a great panorama'. Although in some respects it is old-fashioned for its period, McGarvie suggested that the explanation is that Bampfylde was 'a crusty and possessive old gentleman ... who believed that an Englishman's home was his castle and applied the doctrine to the furthest limits of his estate'. He

HARDINGTON PARK, SOMERSET: KEEPER'S LODGE   SKETCH SURVEY, 1978

ATTIC PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

GROUND PLAN

MODERN TRUSS

UP

UP

EAST ELEVATION

THE DATE ON THE DOOR LINTEL: A.D. 1581 FE 14
(PRESUMABLY 1582 NEW STYLE) IS PROBABLY THAT
OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING; 1723 OF A REPAIR.

CROSS SECTION

J.H.H. DELT.
1978-79

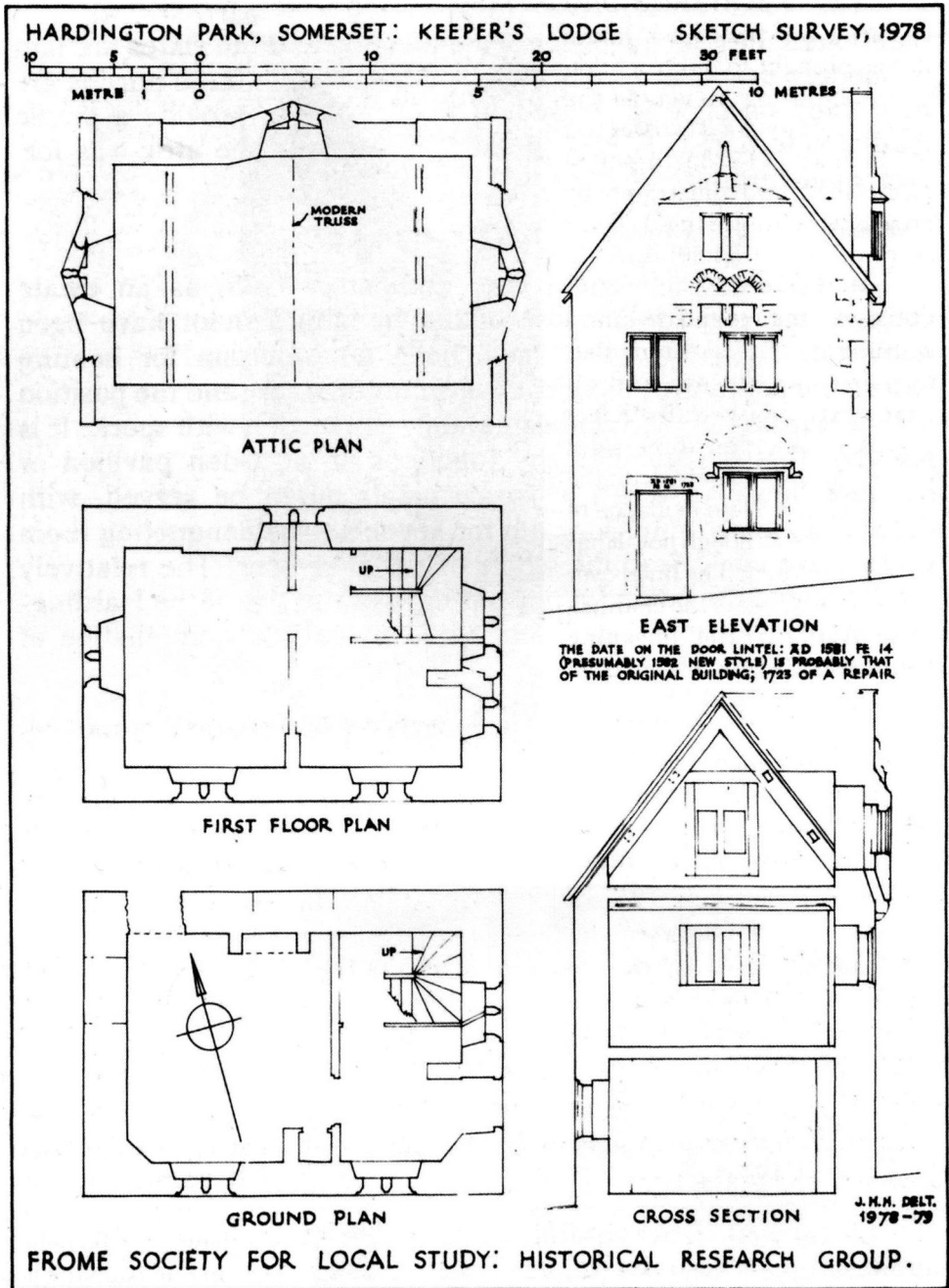FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY: HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP.

Fig. 40
The Keeper's Cottage, Hardington.
Measured drawings by Frome Society for Local Study, 1978.

resisted tax-collectors and he antagonized his neighbours by appropriating the glebe land. 'It is difficult to resist the conclusion that the Lodge was primarily a watch-tower and a guardhouse, intimidating intruders by its very presence and allowing Bampfylde's retainers to perceive and take counter-measures against any intrusion by poachers, court officials and others'. The machicolations (or barbizans) below the north, east and west attic windows are genuine and functional,[45] and amply illustrate Surflet's passage (quoted in Part 1, 52) 'through which the Keeper may either shoot, cast stones or scalding water' (Fig. 39). The thinner south wall is undefended, but on this side there was formerly a walled garden. Whether this building was occupied as a defensive park-keeper's lodge comparable with The Forester's Lodge at Upper Millichope (described in Part 1, 51-2) or whether it was built mainly to intimidate intruders cannot be determined with certainty, but the absence of original heating supports the latter interpretation. It is listed Grade II in Hemington parish, inappropriately described as a 'Folly'.

Not every building in a park or immediately outside it was concerned with deer hunting. A 'dary house' in a park is shown in an undated estate map of Stock, Essex, of *c.* 1575.[46] Some were warreners' lodges, others were associated with woodland industries. Forest Cottage, Hatfield Broad Oak (TL539188), stands immediately outside the present National Trust boundary of Hatfield Forest, Essex, which here follows the traditional boundary of Hatfield Park (Fig. 41). It is a timber-framed building which was built as a small aisled hall, but one end has been cut off leaving the ends of the arcade plates exposed. David Stenning and Elphin Watkin have shown that it still retains substantial parts of the aisled frame — both arcade-plates, four smoke-blackened rafter couples with collars, one arcade post, and one aisle rafter with an aisle-tie. It has been dendro-dated to 1360.[47] All the timbers are minimal in length and thickness, although the carpentry has been executed to a high standard. Oliver Rackham has suggested that the owner was concerned with woodland industry but did not have the right to cut timber, only coppice and pollards, and that the house was built by a professional carpenter from this supply of lightweight timber.[48]
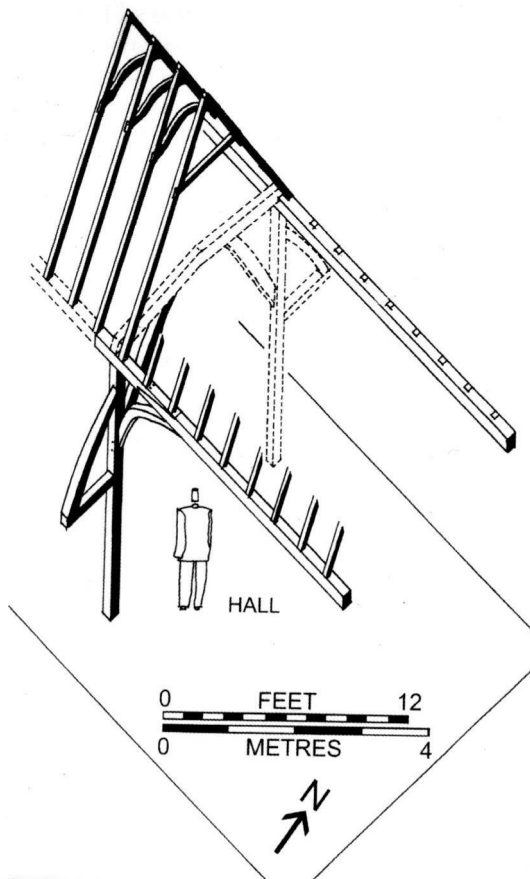

Fig. 41
Forest Cottage, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.
Isometric view, D.F. Stenning, 1997.

Fig. 42
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.
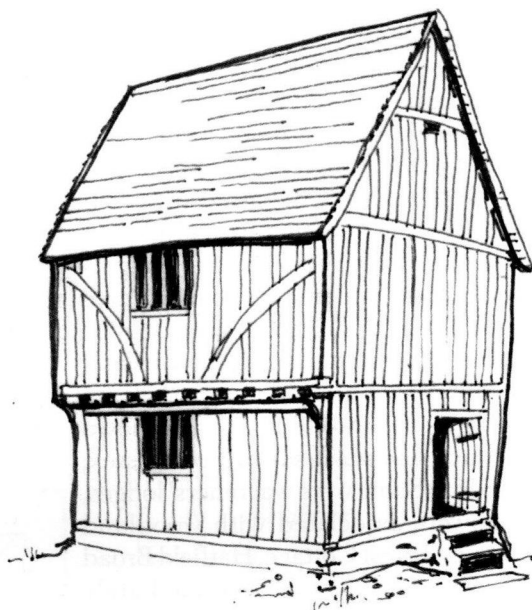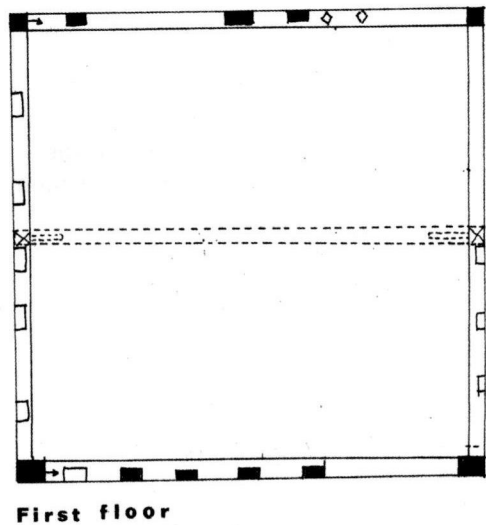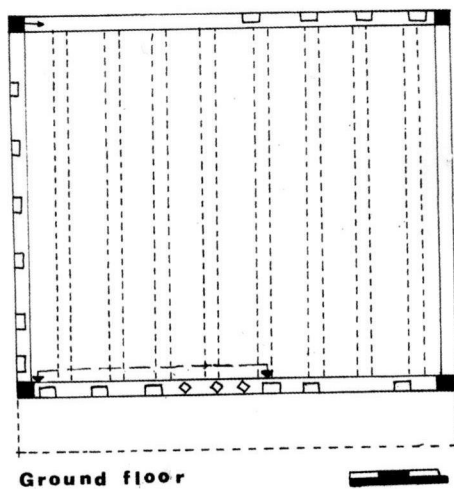*Photograph from south-south-west, J. McCann, 1984.*

Fig. 43
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.
Perspective, Beth Davis, 2014.

Ground floor

First floor

Figs 44a and 44b
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.
Measured plans, Beth Davis, 2014.

'Ploughden', Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, (TL550199) is a strange building standing just outside the traditional boundary of Hatfield Park, facing a small green called Bush End (Figs 42, 43, 44, 45). The timber frame of the earliest part is of high quality; most of it survives. It is square in plan, of one bay, with an under-built jetty facing south-east. There are traces of an original doorway below the jetty. The joists are plain, 8 in (0.20m) square, jointed to the north-western girt with central tenons and pegged, and lodged on the south-eastern girt to support the jetty. At the jointed end their sides exhibit large carpenters' assembly marks in adapted roman numerals (Fig. 46) which occupy almost the whole depth of the joists. They are repeated on the girt. In the soffit of the horizontal timber which supports the jetty there are three diamond mortises for an unglazed window, and a long groove of square section for a sliding shutter. Similar features are present in the wall-plate above the jetty. A gap in the studding of the north-west wall at both storeys near the west corner with continuous grooves of triangular section for wattle-and-daub indicates the position of a former external chimney stack, of which nothing remains. A gap in the studding of the north-east wall at ground floor only indicates the position of an original single-storey attachment, perhaps a store. The storeys are of generous height; the ground storey is 8 feet 6 in (2.60) high, the upper storey is 8 feet (2.44m) high. Originally the interior was undivided at both storeys. The roof is of crown-post construction, aligned parallel with the jetty. There is one plain crown-post with an arched brace to the collar-purlin, and a second crown-post with empty mortises for a similar brace. The collar-purlin and all the original rafters are of horizontal section. When first built the timber frame would have been exposed to the outside, but in the late sixteenth century when the windows were glazed it was lathed and plastered externally; much of it is exposed inside. A large 17th-century chimney stack with subsidiary hearths at both sides has been built against the jetty, covering most of this side. At the opposite side is a 17th-century two-storey extension of poorer timber. In the 19th century 'Ploughden' was occupied as a pair of farmworkers' cottages. In the 1970s it still retained two front doors and two paths leading to separate garden gates, although by then the cottages had been combined to form one dwelling.

It is difficult to see this as a former standing, both because of the square plan and because it is situated outside the park. At present its original use remains
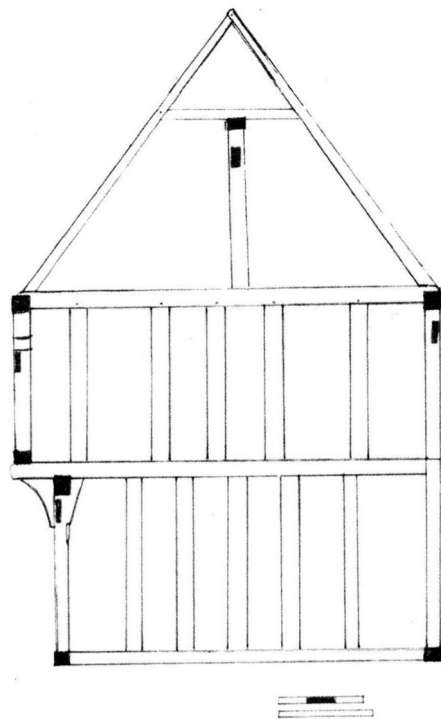

Fig. 45
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.
Elevation of north-east end, Beth Davis, 2014.

uncertain, but its position strongly suggests that it was connected with deer hunting. It may have been a lodge for a gate-keeper, facing a former entrance to the park from Bush End to the east; but this cannot have been the main entrance because the surviving part of the medieval manor house (now known as Little Barrington Hall) lies 0.5km to the south-west.[49] Alternatively it was a park-keeper's lodge, sited to control the whole park, which is flat, and also to control a former entrance from Bush End.

Oliver Rackham has studied the socio-economic history of Hatfield in great depth. Hatfield was a royal manor from at least the 12th century. The park was of 180 (ancient) acres (118ha). 'The king made very little use of the deer in Hatfield Park'. He took about a dozen deer each year, presumably taken by employed huntsmen, but this included those from the much larger Hatfield Forest adjacent. He derived some benefit from large oaks, pannage, the sale of underwood, and fines imposed on poachers and those who committed various forms of trespass, but there is no evidence that a king ever hunted in Hatfield Park. In 1446 Henry VI granted the right to take deer from the park and the Forest to Humphrey Stafford, first Duke of Buckingham, and his heirs for one hundred years. 'Ploughden' is listed Grade II* as late fourteenth-century, but it could be 15th-century. It seems likely that the earliest part of the building was built for the first Duke of Buckingham in 1446 or soon afterwards to accompany a new or improved access from Bush End and the east. 'Bush End Gate' was mentioned in a survey of 1677.[50]
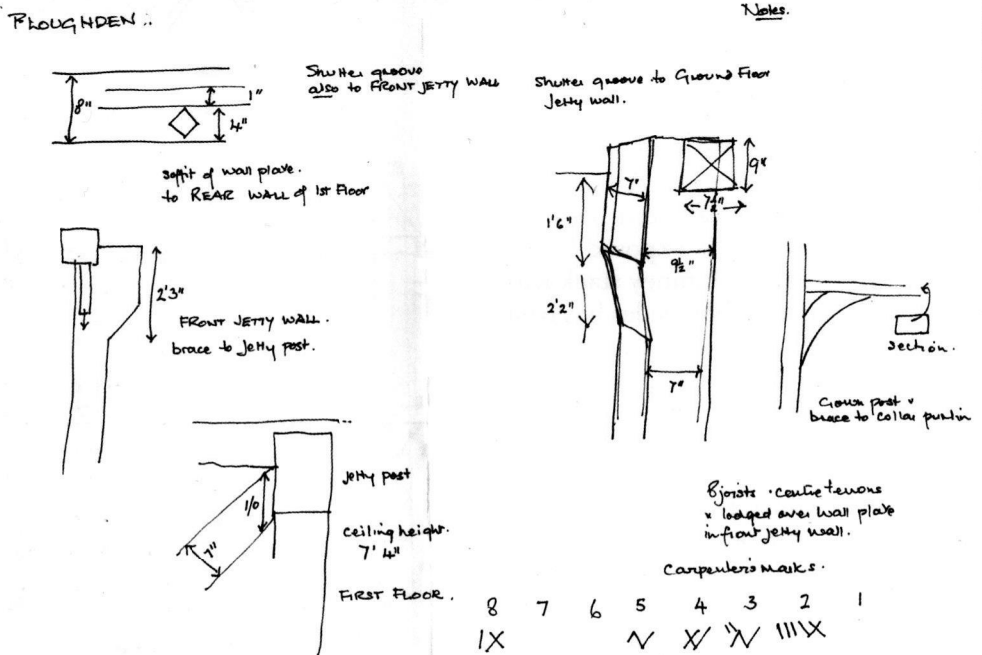

Fig. 46
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex. Carpenters' assembly marks on joists.
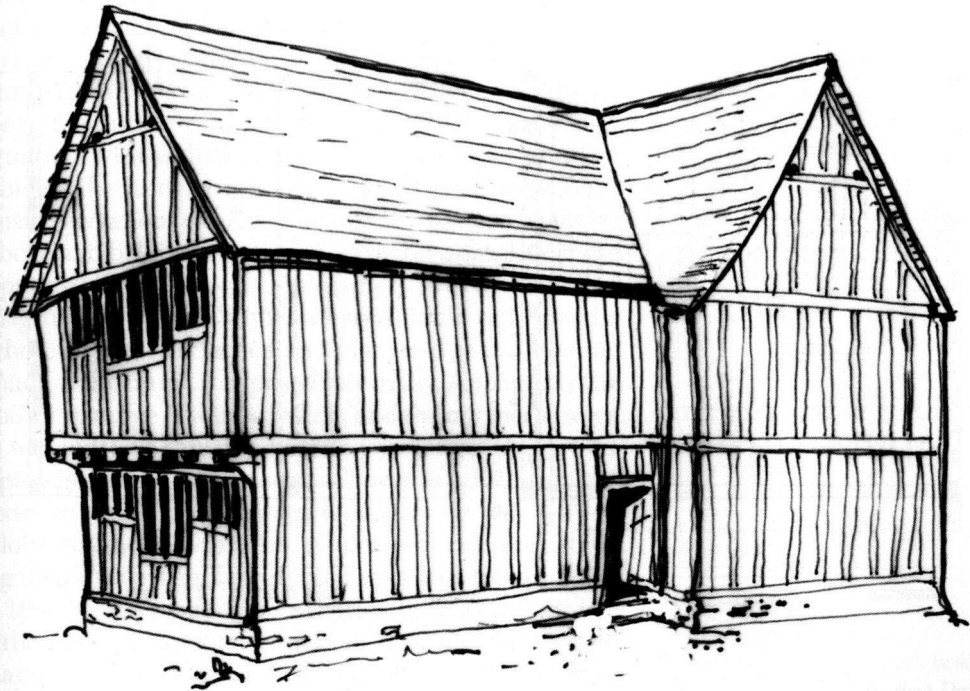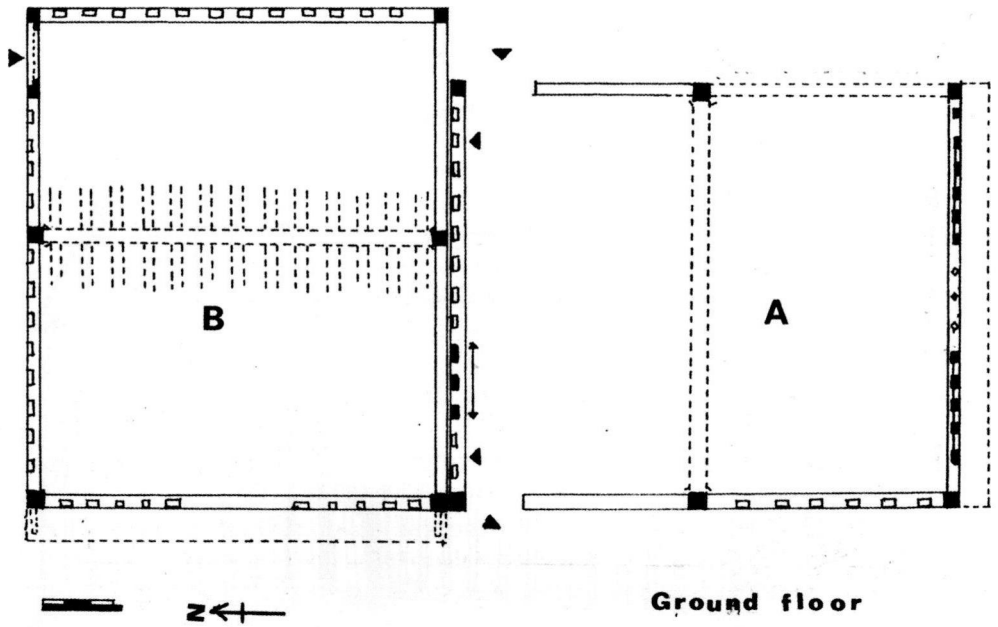*Sketch, Beth Davis, 2014.*

Fig. 47
Oaks Farm, Wakes Colne, Essex.
Perspective from south-east, Beth Davis, 2014.

Another building of uncertain function survives at Wakes Colne, Essex (TL912279), now called Oaks Farm. It is 1.7 miles (2.72km) east of Wakes Colne village, near the top of a south-facing promontory which overlooks the valley of the River Colne. It stands to the east of a lane leading to Crepping Hall, a Grade I aisled hall 0.5km to the north-west. From Oaks Farm there are long views to the west across the valley of a tributary of the Colne. It comprises two timber-framed ranges at right-angles to each other, each of two bays, originally undivided at each storey (Figs 47, 48, 49). The southern range (A) has bays of equal length and an under-built jetty to the south. The rear (north) wall was unfenestrated at both storeys. The transverse binding beam is chamfered with modified step stops; the joists are lathed and plastered to the soffits. The northern block (B) abuts against the rear wall of block A, and retains an intact jetty to the west. The lower storey is of generous height, 8 feet 6 in (2.60m), which brings the upper floor six in (0.15m) above the floor of block A. Block B is 'open-framed' where it abuts on block A. The joists have been lathed and plastered to their soffits but have been stripped; they are of horizontal section, chamfered and stopped. The bays are asymmetrical, longer towards the jetty, which suggests a sophisticated understanding of the cantilever forces acting upon the jetty which is not apparent in block A. Both ranges originally had rear cross-entries. The doorways are now blocked, but that of block B retains one four-centred arch near the

Ground floor
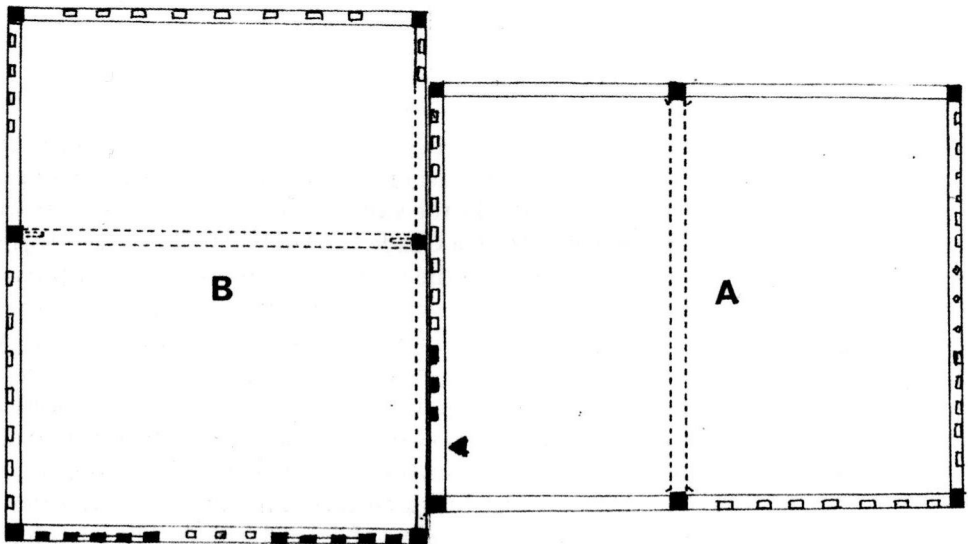
First floor

Figs 48a and 48b
Oaks Farm, Wakes Colne, Essex.
Plans of ground and first floors, Beth Davis, 2014.

south-east corner. Both have side-purlin roofs aligned at right-angles to the jetties with elegant arched wind-braces, slightly different in detail. This type of roof construction was uncommon in the greater part of Essex until the middle of the 16th century.[51] Both are close-studded, with arched braces to the corner posts halved outside the studs, originally exposed externally. Both jettied elevations exhibit evidence of T-pattern windows above and below the jetties, remarkably complete in the upper storey of block B. The frames are of high quality, originally infilled with wattle-and-daub, but now the whole structure is lathed and plastered to the outside; much of the frame is exposed internally. Apparently the southern range A was built first, and the northern range B was butted against it, but the two ranges are not far apart in date of construction. There is a 17th-century external brick chimney stack against the east wall of block A, and a 19th-century external chimney stack against the east gable wall of block B. A brick range of *c.* 1800 has been built across the northern elevation. The tithe map and apportionment of 1841 record the field names 'Six Acre Park', 'Five Acre Park', 'Twelve Acre Park' and 'Park Meadow' to the north-west of Oaks Farm. In 1325 Thomas Wade was licenced to enclose a park at Wakes Colne. In 1545 John, earl of Oxford, was granted 'Wakes Hall, the manor of Colne Wake and park'.[52]

Fig. 49
Oaks Farm, Wakes Colne, Essex
West elevation of Block B, Beth Davis, 2014.

Block A may have been built as a lodge for a gate-keeper to face an entrance to the park from the south-east or south. Block B may have been added when the entrance was re-aligned to the west. The 17th-century alterations – the insertion of a partition, plastering of ceilings, the insertion of a floor at eaves level in block A which provided an occupied attic, the addition of a brick chimney – apparently represent the demise of the park and the conversion of the former gate-keeper's lodge to an estate farmhouse. Alternatively, Oaks Farm could have been the lodge of a park-keeper, so situated that it could overlook the whole park and also control the entrance. I. D. Rotherham stated that 'Buildings in parks included ... banqueting houses',[53] and one has been described and illustrated at Letheringham, Suffolk (Part 1, 46 and Fig. 18). It is possible that the upper storey was used for banqueting. Oaks Farm is a Grade II listed building.

ADDENDUM.
Since publication of Part 1, Letheringham Lodge in Suffolk, described and illustrated pp.45-6, has been dendro-dated. The timber for the primary phase was felled in 1472-5, and the roof was rebuilt with timber felled in 1609 (*Vernacular Architecture* 45, 2014, 118).
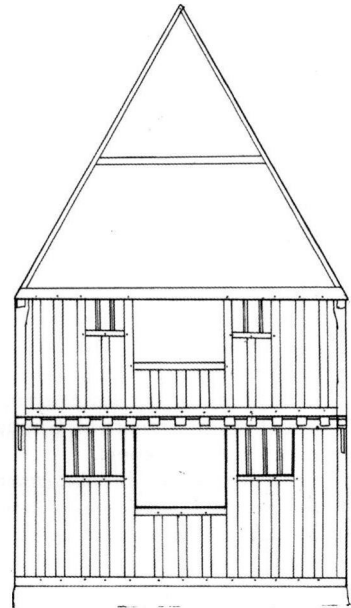
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. and Nat. Hist. Soc* 59 (1913), 25.
3. *Victoria County History of Somerset* 7 (1999), 25.
4. P. Couzens, *Bruton in Selwood* (Sherborne 1968), 47-9; J. and P. McCann, *The Dovecotes of Historical Somerset* (Somerset Building Research Group 2003), 165-7.
5. Listed building report, RCHME *Dorset* (1952), I, 64.
6. J. Hutchins, *History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* (London 1794), II, 672.
7. Listed building report; M. Girouard, 'Elizabethan Chatsworth', *Country Life*, 22 November 1973, 1670.
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9. Richard, Lord Braybrooke, *History of Audley End* (London 1836), 136; P. Morant, *History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* (London 1768), II, 596. The site is now called Ring Hill, in the parish of Littlebury.
10. The original map has been lost; see A.C. Edwards and K.C. Newton, *The Walkers of Hanningfield, map-makers extraordinary* (London 1984), table 4.
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12. R. Muir, *Ancient Trees, living landscapes* (Stroud 2009), 132.
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14. S.A. Mileson, *Parks in Medieval England* (Oxford 2009), 82-98.
15. R. Surflet, *Maison Rustique, or the Countrey Farme* (London 1616), 663.
16. The National Archives (TNA), DL29/58/1098 and DL29/74/1479.
17. TNA, E.101/465/20.
18. H.M. Colvin *et al* (eds), *The History of the King's Works: IV, 1485-1660*, Part II (HMSO, London 1982), 16.
19. TNA, 29/58/1099-1100; for a full transcript see P. Ryan, *Historic Buildings in Essex* 2 (Chelmsford Sept. 1985), 19-20.
20. A. Rowe, *Medieval Parks of Hertfordshire* (University of Hertfordshire Press, 2009), 22. We are grateful to Anne Rowe for this material.
21. Building accounts from the Capel family archives, kindly provided by Anne Rowe from her forthcoming book about Hertfordshire parks in the 16th and 17th centuries. Hertfordshire Archives and Local History Library 9607.
22. P. Kalm, *Account of his visit to England on his way to America,* transl. J. Lucas (London 1892), 222.
23. Bedford County Record Office, R/2114/529.
24. Surflet, *Maison rustique*, 670.
25. Mileson, *Parks in medieval England*, 78.
26. E.P. Shirley, *Some Account of English Deer Parks* (London 1867), 244-5. The ancient practice of removing the lower branches of a tree for fodder is called 'shredding', and is still practised. The branches re-grow rapidly, so they can be harvested every year.
27. J. Fletcher, *Gardens of Earthly Delight the history of deer parks* (Oxford 2012), 28-9.
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29. Essex Record Office, D/Dz and D/Dma 8.
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31. J.M. Hunter, 'Medieval deer parks in the middle Chelmer valley', *Essex Archaeology and History* 25 (Chelmsford 1994), 116-7.
32. Essex R. O., D/DHh/Ml. T/B 106/1.
33. TNA, *Calendar of patent rolls*, 1281-92, 11.

34. S. Neave, *Medieval Parks of East Yorkshire* (University of Hull 1991), 16, 55.

35. L. Knyff, *Britannia Illustrata* (London 1721), 32.

36. In contemporary usage the word 'kennel' meant the whole enclosure for the hounds, not just the building.

37. J. Cummins, *The Hound and the Hawk: the art of medieval hunting* (London 1988), 16, 55.

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42. *Ibid.*, 34.

43. *Ibid.*, 75. The name 'The White Hart' has survived on pubs; the sign always depicts a hart with a golden crown round its neck.

44. J.H. Harvey and M. McGarvie, 'The keeper's lodge in Hardington Park', *TAMS* 24 (1980), 143-52.

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47. D.F. Stenning, 'Small aisled halls in Essex', *Vernacular Architecture* 34 (2003), 15.

48. Pers. comm., Elphin Watkin, 2013, and measured drawings by D.F. Stenning. In the 19th century the building was divided into two cottages, one of which has since been demolished, leaving its chimney *in situ*. There is now a single-storey lean-to on its site.

49. The name of the ancient manor house was changed to Little Barrington Hall when an imposing mansion named Barrington Hall was built *c.* 1734 in another park 1.7 km to the south-south-east

50. O. Rackham, *The Last Forest: the story of Hatfield Forest* (London 1989), 54, 60-1, 74, 80, 114 and *passim*.

51. Pers.comm. from the late Adrian Gibson based on his unpublished research.

52. IR/29/361 and IR30/12/361.

53. J.D. Rotherham, 'The ecology and economics of medieval deer parks', *Landscape Archaeol. and Ecol.* 6 (2007), 90.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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4. E. Couzens, *Broom in Selwood* (Cheltenham 1868), 478–9 and [ ] [ ], 11, [ ] (Somerset Building Research Group, 2003), 16–7.
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18. H.M. Colvin *et al* (eds), *The History of the King's Works* IV, 1485–1660, Part II (HMSO, London 1982), [ ].
19. TNA, 29/59/1669/1100; for a full transcript see P. Ryan, *Hasels, Buildings* (Essex County Council, [ ] 1985), 19–20.
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